(b) whether any conditions have been attached with the release of additional sugar; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) About 1.85 lakh tonnes of freesale sugar has been given as special release to various sugar factories during the last 3-4 months.

(b) and (c) The aforesaid special release of additional freesale sugar has been made on the specific condition that the sale proceeds from the additional quantity so released will be utilised only for payment of cane price arrears to the farmers and a utilisation certificate to this effect will be furnished to the Directorate of Sugar.

New Sugar Policy

1330. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the new sugar policy has enforced the Indian sugar mills to step up their productivity and to become competitive in the world market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that incentive scheme has placed a premium on new units and has encouraged several companies to set up new mills; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) and (b) The new sugar policy aims at improving the financial viability of the sugar industry leading to increased production of sugar. These measures would also provide consequential relief to the farmers in terms of non-accumulation of cane price arrears. The better financial position of the sugar mills will also enable them to undertake modernisation/expansion programmes to reduce their cost of production and thereby become competitive in the world market.

(c) and (d) The new incentive scheme aims at improving the viability of new sugar units, established at high capital cost, by enabling them to repay the term loans taken from the financial institutions.

Quantity of Wheat procured

1331. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) what is the target for wheat procurement by Government agencies during this year;

(b) the quantity of wheat procured by the end of April, 1993 state-wise; and

(c) whether Government still intend to import wheat from abroad ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) As the procurement of wheat by FCI and State procuring agencies is made under the price support operations on a totally voluntary basis, it is not possible to fix any procurement targets as such.

(b) State-wise quantities of wheat procured upto 30-4-1993 in the current Rabi Marketing Season 1993-94 are as under :—

(in '000 tonnes)

States/UTs	Quantity
Haryana	1210.80
Madhya Pradesh	43.34
Punjab	2579.04
Rajasthan	33.78
Uttar Pradesh	263.54
Chandigarh	0.96
Delhi	6.56
TOTAL	4138.02

(c) Keeping in view the higher level of procurement, there is no intention to go in for any wheat imports in the present context.

Installation of Sugar Mill at Jahangirpur in U.P.

1332. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) what is the stage of construction and installation of the cooperative sugar mill at Jahangirpur in Jewar district of Bulandshahr, U.P.; and

(b) by when the sugar mill would start manufacturing sugar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) A letter of Intent No. LI : 764 (1989) dated 16-10-1989 has been issued to M/s. U.P. Cooperative Sugar Factories Federation Ltd., Lucknow for setting up of a new sugar factory of 2500 TCD at Jahangirpur, Jewar District, Bulandshahr. As per information furnished by the aforesaid Federation, 25% construction and installation work of the Sugar Mill has been completed at present.

(b) The Federation has intimated that there is some dispute with the machinery supplier. After resolving the dispute, the Federation expects that the sugar mill would start sugar production during the crushing season 1995-96.

Sugarcane Crushing in Maharashtra

1333. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sugarcane crushing in Maharashtra was stopped during the last season for want of sugarcane ; and

(b) if so, what is the total production loss in tonnes and in number of farm labours working days ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Compulsory Levy on Rice Mills

1334. SHRI IQBAL SINGH :
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the system of procuring ordinary rice and basmati rice through compulsory levy on rice mills is still in vogue in some States: